DOE Announces Renewal of Agreements, Grants Supporting the State of Nevada

Pledged financial support for Nevada environmental and public safety initiatives tops $26 million

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the renewal of two intergovernmental agreements with the State of Nevada to provide over $26 million in federal funding for environmental and public safety initiatives. The two agreements – a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Agreement in Principle (AIP) – renew four financial assistance grants to the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the Nevada Department of Public Safety. The grants run through 2026.

The MOU establishes the responsibilities of the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM), the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) with regard to Environmental Protection Agency-regulated hazardous and non-hazardous waste activities on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). NNSS radioactive waste disposal facilities are essential to EM’s ongoing cleanup of DOE sites across the United States. The NNSS offers safe and permanent disposal for low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and mixed low-level radioactive waste (MLLW) generated at these sites.

“The Office of Environmental Management values our longstanding collaborative relationship with the State of Nevada, which supports the successful execution of vital DOE cleanup missions across the nation,” said William “Ike” White, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management. “We are pleased to finalize these new agreements with the State to continue funding key environmental and public safety programs for the benefit of all Nevadans.”

The AIP establishes commitments of DOE technical and financial support to Nevada for environmental, safety, and health oversight and associated monitoring activities for DOE operations in Nevada. The DOE also commits to assist in emergency management initiatives to further protect the health and safety of NNSS personnel, as well as citizens in surrounding communities and other areas in Nevada.

The four grant renewals have a period of performance from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026 and are detailed below:

1) Grant DE-EM005232 to the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Under the grant, titled “Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Programmatic and Regulatory Oversight, Monitoring and Analysis at the Nevada National Security Site
(NNSS) and Surrounding Locations,” the State of Nevada will perform programmatic and regulatory oversight of DOE waste management activities at NNSS, and the funds from the grant are to be used for studies, services, personnel and equipment that are directly related to the NDEP’s environmental planning and regulatory activities in the State of Nevada, and natural resource planning and management within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The total estimated value of the grant is $16,300,000.00.

2) Grant DE-EM005233 (EPWG) to the Nevada Department of Public Safety.
Under the grant, titled “Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)”, the State of Nevada will perform coordination of emergency management capabilities and participation in emergency response and preparedness activities consistent with specific priorities agreed upon between NDEM and DOE. The NDEM will work in conjunction with DOE in developing and conducting exercises that will test the preparedness and readiness capabilities of participating Nevada communities. The total estimated value of the grant is $2,635,785.00.

3) Grant DE-EM005234 (NDEM) to the Nevada Department of Public Safety.
Under the grant, titled “Environmental Oversight of DOE Activities at the NNSS”, the State of Nevada will provide preparedness activities to include planning, training, and exercise functions for Nevada communities in responding to any emergency associated with issues related to any DOE incident. Also, NDEM will ensure compatibility and integration of emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recover activities that provide for a comprehensive approach to hazard identification, consequence assessment, resource identification, preliminary damage assessment, etc. Of particular importance will be the identification of local, state, and federal roles during DOE-related emergencies and the participation within federal lead agencies. The total estimated value of the grant is $3,400,318.00.

4) Grant DE-EM005237 to the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.
Under the grant, titled “Environmental Oversight of DOE Activities at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)”, the State of Nevada will perform activities to support monitoring of air, groundwater, surface water, and waste management activities to provide an independent evaluation of environmental conditions, for use in determining compliance with applicable state and federal requirements, with regard to waste acceptance at the NNSS. The total estimated value of the grant is $3,677,318.48.

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